

## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

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## The Volunteer Review.

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1868.

EVERY day's experience proves the value of the Militia Bill of last Session, in re-establishing confidence in Great Britain (as to the worth of the political profession of the people of Canada), evidenced by the unprecedented rise in Provincial securities—the emoluments bestowed on it as a measure of practical utility by Lord Elcho—and the

conviction expressed by the press that its applicability to the social condition of the United Kingdom was beyond doubt. More recently its effects on the monied interests can be traced in the facility with which the Hon. the Finance Minister has been able to put the loan for the Intercolonial Railway at most advantageous terms on the market. Although the Imperial guarantee aided the operation considerably, still people having funds to invest would be deterred if the political aspects were unfavorable and lack of defensive measures would mean that in English eyes. For all this splendid success the country is indebted to the wisdom and statesmanlike ability as well as practical knowledge of Sir G. E. CARTIER, Bart.

The late Sir E. P. TACHE, in one of his speeches, is reported to have said that "the last cannon shot, in defence of British supremacy on this continent, would be fired by a French Canadian"—Sir G. E. CARTIER has provided for the fulfilment of that prophecy, if in the course of events the necessity should arise.

Faultless as the measure by which all those great results have been obtained is, in a general point of view, there are still matters in detail which should be attended to, if possible, before the organisation contemplated by the bill is completed. No plan of military organisation can be perfect without a full and sufficient staff; it is not the portion of this necessary component part of the force engaged in its administration that is meant, but that class of officers which hold positions as Aide-de-camps, Engineers, and others qualified by intelligence or scientific attainments to be the eyes and ears of an army. Every class of the militia should have its full proportion of such officers, whose training and experience would enable them to fill any rank in the service. It has always been the chief drawback on the British Army that it was woefully deficient in officers; the cost involved by keeping up the necessary compliment of supernumeraries is the principal and only reason why this is the case, but with the Canadian militia no such difficulty need exist, the law properly provides that every man capable of bearing arms must be enrolled, and therefore the only difficulty in forming a staff corps is the one arising from absence of arrangement for assigning individuals to such corps. It is true the bill does not actually specify the creation of any such arm of the service, but the elasticity of its provisions enables the Minister of Militia, at the command of the Governor General, to rectify any omission.

Another necessity is that of an *unattached list*. Those desirous of retiring retaining their rank should be allowed to do so if properly qualified to hold that rank according to law. If in the event of hostilities it became necessary to call out any large proportion of the force embodied, the value of having an unattached list would be soon apparent. Many good officers are now lost to the volun-

teer service because this principle was not observed in its organisation. The aim and object steadily held in view should be that of filling all ranks in the Canadian militia with *native officers*; it will prevent disagreeable consequences, both to this country and Great Britain, if the practical view of this matter finds favor in the proper quarter; and from the specimen already given of the skill displayed in that respect there can be no doubt of the manner in which such a suggestion will be entertained. It is evident enough that to make the militia organisation what it ought to be, every corresponding arm of the service in the regular army should be faithfully represented.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia will be doing further service to the country by providing for a class of officers necessary in any army, but much more in the Canadian militia, where the regimental officers, necessarily local, have neither time nor leisure to acquire the information requisite for general purposes.

As the New Militia Act will come into operation on the 1st October next, its successful application will be greatly aided by providing for any possible contingency; and the Militia Department, under its present Chief, is equal to the occasion.

ALL advices, public and private alike, point to the dangerous state of excitability in which our fellow subjects in the Maritime Provinces are indulging on the subject of Confederation.

The Review not being a political Journal, will be free from the charge of party bias in dealing with a subject not strictly within the sphere of its operations, but as it circulates pretty extensively in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, a word of advice in its columns will not be amiss.

It would appear that the people of Nova Scotia are indignant at being joined to Canada by a measure which secures for each (and this seems to be the great defect of the Confederation Act and scheme) their full Provincial autonomy, because a direct appeal to the people on the question of union was not made. Without stopping to enquire into this question constitutionally or otherwise, or to discuss its legality or wisdom, it is evident enough that the sanction of the Imperial Legislature was awarded to the plan of union as it exists, and from that Legislature the constitutions of the various British Provinces in America have been derived, consequently it remained with that power to resume, alter, or abandon all control over the constitutional regimen of the Provinces; by the Act of Confederation it placed the sovereign power in the hands of the people by the creation of the House of Commons and Senate of the Dominion. Therefore the anger of the people of Nova Scotia should be directed against the Imperial legislature and not against Canada. It is true the statesmen of that Province pre-